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Economic and Social Council

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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-sixth session
29 January–7 February 2018
Agenda item 5
Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(a) Priority theme: addressing inequalities and challenges to inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(v) Family issues, policies and programmes;

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Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

(c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Proposed programme plan for 2020;

(b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2020

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-seventh session.

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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-sixth session
29 January–7 February 2018
Agenda item 6
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Mihaela **Mecea** (Romania)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters on 10 February 2017 and from 29 January to 7 February 2018. The Commission held [ ] meetings (1st to [ ]).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of [ ] States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

4. At its 1st meeting, on 10 February 2017, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Yao Shaojun (China) and Bruno Ríos Sánchez (Mexico) as Vice-Chairs of the fifty-sixth session.

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10. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as set out in annex I to document E/CN.5/2018/1 and E/CN.5/2018/1/Corr.1.

E. Documentation

11. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-sixth session is contained in annex [ ] to the present report.

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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-sixth session
29 January–7 February 2018
Agenda item 3 (b) (iv)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Yao Shaojun (China), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,[1] the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 72/144 of 19 December 2017 and previous Assembly resolutions on ageing, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 33/5 of 29 September 2016[2] and previous Human Rights Council resolutions on ageing,

Recalling further that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. II.

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Bearing in mind that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[3] decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] which was based on the results of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Noting the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and its contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action,

Noting also the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, appointed by the Human Rights Council, on the assessment of the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[5] which includes several aspirational and global targets that are specific to older persons, and stressing the importance of ensuring that issues of relevance to older persons are taken into account in the implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Recognizing population ageing as one of the major trends that is likely to shape the prospects for achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing also that implementing the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action and the relevant regional implementation strategies will help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to efforts to leave no one behind,

Stressing that, in complementing national development efforts, enhanced international cooperation, in its different forms and ways, is essential to support developing countries in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recognizing the steps taken in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by Member States, as well as relevant United Nations mechanisms, bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, and taking note of the establishment of an informal inter-agency group on ageing in 2017,

Recognizing also that it is important for Member States to take concrete measures, in accordance with national legislation and consistent with applicable international law, to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, consistent with the Madrid Plan of Action and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[6] and to raise awareness in this area,

Recognizing further the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all measures concerning older persons in order to take into account the specific needs and experiences of older women and men,

Recognizing the important role of various international and regional organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and

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[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[4] E/CN.5/2018/4.

[5] Resolution 70/1.

[6] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

monitoring at the national and regional levels in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and acknowledging the work that is undertaken in various parts of the world, as well as regional initiatives, such as the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Asunción from 27 to 30 June 2017, the fourth Economic Commission for Europe Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Lisbon from 20 to 22 September 2017, the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2017, and the regional review processes and reports of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa, as well the work of institutes such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna,

1. *Recognizes* the successful conclusion of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] and its results at the international, regional and national levels, which highlighted several common challenges across regions, from the various perspectives of demographic transition, cultural norms and level of economic development, including the health and well-being of older persons and the improvement of related health and care services, as well as the expansion, improvement and sustainability of social protection systems and other income support measures, all of which remain a priority in all regions;

2. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen further the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and use it as a tool for the inclusion of older persons in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[5] and the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recognizes* the potential of older persons and the essential contribution they can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate guarantees are in place, and encourages Member States to create an enabling environment for the full participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity in the situations of older persons;

4. *Encourages* Member States to take into account the multidimensional nature of the vulnerability of older persons to poverty and economic insecurity, including through the promotion of good health, care and well-being, in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen a national coordinating body or mechanism, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

6. *Expresses concern* that growing older presents a significant additional risk of vulnerability to economic insecurity and poverty and that people living in areas where poverty is endemic, and having endured a life of poverty and deprivation, are often at greater risk of slipping deeper into poverty in their older age;

7. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream ageing into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development,

the realization of all human rights for older persons, the promotion of social integration and the prevention and elimination of age discrimination, including by highlighting a gender perspective;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to promote the understanding of ageing as an issue of concern to society as a whole, through lifelong education at all levels, in order to combat ageism and discrimination against older persons;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches such as empowerment and participation, gender equality, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider setting benchmarks for action at the national level based on the successes and good practices, shortcomings and future priorities identified in their national and regional levels of review and appraisal in furthering implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, bearing in mind the specific needs of older persons, including through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, research, data collection and analysis and the training of necessary personnel in the field of ageing;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and measures aimed at providing economic and social security and health care, while considering the Madrid Plan of Action and mainstreaming a gender perspective, the full participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives, and ageing with dignity;

12. *Encourages* Member States to formulate and implement pension policies and seek to improve the effectiveness of their social protection and security systems, taking into consideration that it is necessary to promote decent work, which will subsequently allow for decent retirement;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to support the national and international research community in developing studies on the impact of the Madrid Plan of Action on older persons and national social policies;

14. *Further encourages* Member States to address the well-being and adequate health care of older persons, including long-term care and palliative care, and recognizes that the incidence and impacts of non-communicable diseases can be largely prevented or reduced with an approach that incorporates evidence-based, affordable, cost-effective, population-wide and multisectoral interventions;

15. *Encourages* Member States to harness scientific research and expertise and realize the potential of technology and of rapid technological change to focus on, inter alia, the individual, social, educational and health implications of ageing, in particular in developing countries;

16. *Invites* Member States to establish and/or strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, such as organizations of older persons and academia, and with the private sector in order to improve their national capacity for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring in the area of ageing;

17. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level guided by each country's needs in order to promote and facilitate the

implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in this connection encourages Member States to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

18. *Invites* Member States as well as other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

19. *Acknowledges* the essential contributions of the United Nations regional commissions to the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, including the organization of regional review and appraisal meetings and the preparation of their outcome documents, and calls upon the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the regional commissions on ageing to enable them to enhance their regional implementation activities;

20. *Requests* the regional commissions to continue to facilitate, including through their intergovernmental bodies, the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action based on the priorities identified in the outcomes of their regional review and appraisal exercises and as a modality for the inclusion of older persons in the implementation and attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Invites* its functional commissions, within their mandates, to consider mainstreaming ageing issues, inter alia, by including ageing and the concerns of older persons in the emerging issues under their programmes of work, as appropriate, bearing in mind the importance of improving United Nations coordination and strengthening capacity-building, where needed, in order to improve the situation of older persons;

22. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities that can contribute to advancing the situation of older persons to, within their respective mandates, give greater priority to addressing the needs and concerns of older persons, while maximizing synergies;

23. *Encourages* the international community to enhance international cooperation, inter alia, cooperation among Member States, to support national efforts, upon request, to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, in order to achieve sustainable social and economic support for older persons, and to build capacity on ageing through stronger partnerships with civil society, such as organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations and community- and faith-based organizations, and with the private sector;

24. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts, upon request, and to provide funding for research and the collection of data disaggregated by age, in addition to data disaggregated by sex and disability, in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and to provide policymakers with more accurate, practical and specific information and analysis on ageing, gender and disability, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the outcomes of the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, and in particular the relationship between development, social policy and the human rights of older persons to, inter alia, better inform the future work of relevant United Nations entities and bodies, including the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-eighth session, in 2020, a report on the modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and the implementation of the present resolution.

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Egypt:* draft resolution

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[3] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[5] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[8] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[6] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[7] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[8] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

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document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[9]

Recognizing the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[10] and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, containing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, on the theme "Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa", held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, and the first session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, on the theme "Social protection for inclusive development", held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 April 2015, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and noting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in January 2016,

Acknowledging the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and offer an important opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development, and

[9] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 October 2017, and recalling also the second session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, held in Algiers from 24 to 28 April 2017,

Noting with concern the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and welcoming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa, launched at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of a ban on female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that, after the latest global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, that, notwithstanding the impact of the financial crisis, financial flows and the share of developing countries in world trade have continued to increase, that these advances have contributed to a substantial reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty, and that, despite these gains, many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind, emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[11] and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing also the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Recognizing further that investments in people, especially in their social protection, health inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors, including agriculture, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

[11] A/57/304, annex.

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial,

Recognizing also that the lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 36 countries, 30 of which are in Africa, that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conferences on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[12]

Underscoring that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, emphasizing the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[11] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the voluntary adherence of 37 African countries to the Mechanism and the completion of the peer review process in 21 countries, welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process, and encourages further strengthening of the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a

[12] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] E/CN.5/2018/2.

positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

7. *Welcomes* the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend, which outlines policy actions based on empowerment, education and employment to achieve the dividend, and welcomes the declaration by the African Union of 2018–2027 as the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment;

8. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to declare 2018 as African Anti-Corruption Year;

9. *Urges* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and/or accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[14] encourages States parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument for deterring, detecting, preventing and countering corruption and bribery, prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities and recovering and returning stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encourages the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expresses support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges the updating and ratification of regional conventions against corruption, and strives to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

10. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] robust efforts are needed to sustain gains made under the Millennium Development Goals and integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, particularly the extension of universal health coverage;

11. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, notes that 48 African countries have since integrated the objectives of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa into their national strategies, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

12. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against

[14] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030,[15] adopted on 8 June 2016 at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an Africa free of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, by addressing the needs of all, in particular those of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to significantly scale up efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

13. *Also takes note* of the decision of the African Union to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 so as to achieve full implementation, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform from which to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with relevant international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support the efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

14. *Encourages* African countries to prioritize investments in building the institutional capacity of health systems, reduce health inequities within and across countries, progressively achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases;

15. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

16. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

17. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective

[15] General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

19. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

20. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

21. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in inclusive, equitable and quality education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

22. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

23. *Encourages* African countries to continue to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

24. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use such assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Welcomes* the increase of official development assistance in real terms in 2016, but expresses its concern that bilateral net official development assistance to least developed countries fell slightly in real terms in 2016, after increasing in 2015, and that many countries still fall short of their respective official development assistance commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all such commitments remains crucial and that for many least developed countries and landlocked

developing countries official development assistance remains the largest source of external financing, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards the targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent with respect to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages providers of official development assistance to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

26. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, and therefore requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, while also acknowledging that official development assistance and other concessional finance is still important for a number of these countries and has a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

27. *Also recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

28. *Further recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

29. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to align the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa,[16] reaffirms General Assembly resolution 71/254 of 23 December 2016, entitled "Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027", and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Coordination Mechanism in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the financing necessary to support the implementation of its activities;

[16] The nine clusters include: governance; science and technology; infrastructure development; social and human development; agriculture, food security and rural development; peace and security; environment, population and urbanization; advocacy and communication; and industry, trade and market access.

30. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

31. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of sustainable agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase the access of smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

32. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

33. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[17]

34. *Also recognizes* the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First and Second United Nations Decades for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006 and 2008–2017), and welcomes the proclamation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/233 of 20 December 2017 in order to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

35. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

36. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence,

[17] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

37. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, including efforts to realize girls' right to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education;

38. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

39. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into their prime working years, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

41. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

42. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

43. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

44. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

45. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

46. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on information, communications and culture to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

47. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

48. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its fifty-seventh session;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012, 67/294 of 15 August 2013, 68/301 of 17 July 2014, 69/290 of 19 June 2015, 70/295 of 25 July 2016 and 71/320 of 8 September 2017, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-seventh session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

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Commission for Social Development
Fifty-sixth session
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Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Bruno Rios (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008, 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, 2012/7 of 26 July 2012, 2014/3 of 12 June 2014 and 2016/6 of 2 June 2016 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcome of the World Summit[1] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and stressing the importance of the implementation of this ambitious new Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly stipulated that the Council should invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme and that it should ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clearer policy guidance to them,

* Reissued for technical reasons on 8 February 2018.
[1] A/CONF.166/9.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

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Recognizing the commitment, and emphasizing the need, to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations as a principal organ of the Organization, in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recognizing the key role of the Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, by which it decided that the Commission for Social Development, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and should advise the Council thereon,

Recognizing the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Mindful of the review by the General Assembly of the arrangements contained in its resolution 68/1 and the annex thereto, to be made during its seventy-second session, and the ongoing process of discussions on the reform of the United Nations, in particular the process of repositioning the United Nations development system,[4]

Recognizing that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[5] and the World Programme of Action for Youth,[6] the objectives of the International Year of the Family and their follow-up processes and the outcome document "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond",[7] as well as the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[8] and other relevant key instruments, are mutually reinforcing to the advancement of social development for all,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council needs to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, shall review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

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[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II

[4] See A/72/124-E/2018/3.

[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolutions 50/81, annex, and 62/126, annex.

[7] A/68/95.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

2. *Affirms* that the Commission continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, which should reflect the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements established by the General Assembly and the Council;

4. *Decides* that the Commission will consider one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

5. *Invites* the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, the relevant specialized agencies, regional commissions, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to present their relevant activities and reports, which may contribute to the advancement of the priority theme, including by participating in interactive dialogues with Member States and relevant stakeholders;

6. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work, including by addressing the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Decides* that, with regard to the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission shall review the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[10] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[11] by proceeding to the review of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond";[7]

8. *Requests* the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation: in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcomes of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to build

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[10] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[11] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

9. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2019 session, which shall allow the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council, will be "Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies";

10. *Also decides* to continue to consider the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening the resolution on the priority theme, eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

11. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

12. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, including as related to the timing and number of working days of its sessions, at its fifty-seventh session in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work of the Council, in line with the outcome of the General Assembly review of the strengthening of the Council and the process of repositioning the United Nations Development system.